

# MARYLAND'S 2013 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT FOR SCUP

Prepared for ASMFC

by:

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## **Confidential data included in this report**

### **I. Introduction**

Scup are managed under Amendment 13 which divides the quota between the recreational (22%) and commercial (78%) fisheries. Scup stock status was last assessed in December 2008 and summarized in the report of the Northeast Data Poor Stocks Working Group (NEFSC CDR 09-02). The review panel concluded that overfishing is not occurring, and that the stock is not overfished. A similar conclusion was reached with the 2011 update of the assessment. Juvenile Scup are commonly caught in Black Sea Bass pots in the fall by commercial Sea Bass potters, and commercial trawl landings have increased considerably in the past two years. Recreationally Scup are rarely caught.

### **II. De minimus N/A**

### **III. Previous calendar year's fishery and management program**

#### **Monitoring Programs**

Scup data are collected from Maryland's Coastal Bays Finfish Investigation trawl and seine survey. A total of 140 trawl and 38 seine hauls are conducted annually. In 2013, two Scup were caught by trawl and 0 Scup were caught by seine.

### **Regulations**

#### **A. Minimum Size.**

(1) Recreational. A recreational angler may not catch or possess a Scup less than 8 inches in total length.

(2) Commercial. A commercial tidal fish licensee may not catch or possess Scup less than 9 inches in total length.

#### **B. Commercial Gear Restrictions.**

(1) Trawls.

(a) Except for a person landing less than a total of 500 pounds of Scup from November 1 through April 30 or 100 pounds of Scup from May 1 through October 31, a person may not use a trawl with:

- (i) Mesh less than 4 1/2 inch stretched mesh size;
- (ii) More than 25 meshes in the codend with more than 100 continuous meshes of 5 inch mesh forward of the codend; or
- (iii) Mesh size less than 4 1/2 inches throughout the trawl net for trawl nets with codends less than 125 meshes.

(b) A person may not use a roller rig trawl with a roller diameter in excess of 18 inches to catch Scup.

(2) Pots and Traps. A pot or trap used to catch Scup shall have:

(a) An escape vent of at least a:

- (i) 3.1 inch diameter round opening, or
- (ii) 2.25 inch square opening; and

(b) Hinges or fasteners on one panel or door made of one of the following degradable materials:

- (i) Untreated hemp or jute string of 3/16 inch in diameter or smaller,
- (ii) Magnesium alloy fasteners, or
- (iii) Ungalvanized or uncoated iron wire of 0.062 inch in diameter or smaller.

#### C. Catch Limits.

(1) Commercial Catch Limits. A coastwide quota and daily catch limit to be shared by all Atlantic states will be established and published by National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

(2) A commercial tidal fish licensee may not catch, possess, or land more pounds of Scup daily than as set forth in §C(1) of this regulation.

(3) Recreational Catch Limits. An individual may not catch or possess more than 50 Scup per day.

#### D. General.

(1) The Secretary may modify or set a season or catch limit by publishing notice in a daily newspaper of general circulation at least 48 hours in advance of the modification, stating the effective hour and date.

(2) The Secretary shall make reasonable effort to disseminate public notice through various other media so that an affected person has reasonable opportunity to be informed.

#### Harvest

##### Recreational Fishery

Harvest: Maryland's 2013 recreational Scup harvest was 0 fish (May 27, 2014, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division, Personal communication).

##### Commercial Fishery

Harvest: [REDACTED] (May 27, 2014, National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division, Personal communication). **NMFS data are confidential.** Most of these fish were harvested in the Winter I season.

#### **IV. Planned management programs for the current year (2014).**

Recreational Fishery: Same as 2013, described above.

Commercial Fishery: Same as 2013, described above.

Monitoring Programs: Same as 2013, described above.

#### **References**

National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division. Commercial landings. 4/27/13, 10/26/13, and 12/29/13.

[http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports\\_frame.htm](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports_frame.htm) Accessed on 5/27/14.

National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division. Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey.

<http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational/queries/custom/index.html>. Accessed on 5/27/14.

Northeast Data poor Stocks Working Group. 2009. The Northeast Data Poor Stocks Working Group Report, December 8012, 2008 Meeting. Part A. Skate species complex, Deep sea red crab, Atlantic wolfish, Scup, and Black Sea Bass. US Dept Commerce, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Ref Doc. 09-02; 496p.

<http://www.nefsc.gov/publications/crd/crd0902/>

Terceiro, M. 2011. Stock assessment of Scup for 2011. Northeast Fisheries Science Center Reference Document 11-21. NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Woods Hole, MA